|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [INSERT LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT LETTERHEAD]  | Street Address, City, ST ZIP CodeTelephoneEmail |

[INSERT DATE]

**Template Letter to Swine Exhibitors After a Human Variant Influenza Detection**

Dear Swine Exhibitors/Swine Purchasers,

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has identified a variant influenza infection [INSERT TYPE & STRAIN] in an individual who had contact with swine at the [INSERT FAIR NAME], which was held [INSERT FAIR DATES]. Additional testing for the individual and close contacts is pending.

[INSERT LHD NAME] is working with the fair to notify those who purchased swine as well as families who exhibited swine that they may have been exposed to influenza from infected pigs.

Pigs may be infected with swine influenza viruses that are different from human flu viruses. Swine flu viruses spread among pigs and – while rare – they can spread from pigs to people too. Spread of swine flu viruses from a pig to a person is thought to happen in the same way that human flu viruses spread; mainly through droplets when infected pigs cough and sneeze. This has happened in different settings, especially at fairs where pigs from many farms come in close contact with each other and with people.

The illness may affect some people more severely and it is important to inform your family doctor if anyone exposed to the pigs has come down with a **fever, cough, body aches, or other respiratory symptoms**. Please immediately contact [INSERT LHD NAME] if you or anyone in your family has been sick with these symptoms. A nose or throat swab may be collected from you for swine influenza testing.

[INSERT LHD NAME] is asking families who purchased or exhibited swine at the [INSERT FAIR NAME] to watch themselves for symptoms of influenza for **10 days** after their last exposure to pigs from the fair. Influenza antiviral drugs can treat swine influenza viruses as well as seasonal flu illness in people. These drugs work better the sooner they are started.

Swine influenza in pigs is not a food safety concern. Therefore, you cannot get influenza by eating cooked pork or pork products.

[INSERT LHD NAME] and MDHHS are gathering information on flu-like illness in persons who were at the [INSERT FAIR NAME]. We are asking ALL exhibitors and swine purchasers to please fill out the attached survey, regardless of health status, as soon as possible. The survey will be open until [ENTER DATE].

[ENTER SURVEY LINK]

Sincerely,

[INSERT SIGNATURE, NAME & TITLE]

[INSERT LHD CONTACT INFORMATION]